

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 06498 01 OF 02 141325Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----051258 141333Z /42

O P 141105Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1535  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 6498

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF WASHDC FOR ISA AND OTHER ADDEES AS  
APPROPRIATE

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, US  
SUBJ: U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT: AMBASSADOR'S  
DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER OFFICIALS

REF: A) STATE 162276 (EXDIS)  
B) ATHENS 6374

1. DURING COURSE OF EACH OF HIS FAREWELL CALLS JULY 13 (ON PRESI-  
DENT TSATSOS, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SECRETARY GENERAL  
THEODOROPOULOS AND THIRD POLITICAL DIRECTOR CHRYSOPATHIS) AND AT  
LUNCH GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS, AMBASSADOR  
TOOK THE OCCASION TO EXPRESS HIS MOST INTENSE INTEREST IN  
RESOLVING REMAINING ISSUES IN DCA NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN NEXT  
FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AND OUR CONCERN THAT UNLESS THIS WAS DONE  
THERE WAS REAL DANGER THAT OPPORTUNITY TO FINALLY CONCLUDE THESE  
COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS DESIRED BY BOTH COUNTRIES  
MIGHT SLIP AWAY.

2. IN HIS TALK WITH PRESIDENT TSATSOS, THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED  
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THE GREAT DISTANCE WE HAD COME IN RECENT WEEKS IN RESOLVING THE  
ISSUES STILL IN DISPUTE WHEN THE LAST FORMAL NEGOTIATING ROUND  
RECESSED LAST OCTOBER. THE ONLY QUESTION STILL PREVENTING OUR CON-  
CLUDING THESE AGREEMENTS IS THE GREEK NAVY'S DESIRE TO GET AS MUCH  
ASSISTANCE AS POSSIBLE FROM US IN ACQUIRING ITS OWN TELECOMMUNICA-  
TIONS FACILITIES, AND AS PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HAD TOLD AMB-  
ASSADOR, HE DID NOT INTEND TO ALLOW SUCH A MATTER TO STAND IN THE

WAY OF REACHING THIS OVERALL AGREEMENT. AMBASSADOR URGED TSATSOS TO DO ANYTHING HE COULD TO HELP CONCLUDE AGREEMENT WITHIN NEXT 48 HOURS.

3. TSATSOS AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF REACHING SATISFACTORY SECURITY AGREEMENT QUICKLY AND HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DO SO BEFORE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE. HE SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR MAKE SIMILAR APPEAL TO BITSIOS AND OTHERS WHO WERE CLOSER TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS THAN TSATSOS HIMSELF.

4. AMBASSADOR THEN CALLED SEPARATELY ON THEODOROPOULOS AND CHRYSOPATHIS, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM MILLS, AND MADE SIMILAR DEMARCHES. WITH DELEGATION HEAD CHRYSOPATHIS, AMBASSADOR RECALLED IN DETAIL THE GENEROUS OVERALL ASSISTANCE WE HAD OFFERED GREECE UPON CONCLUSION OF DCA. THIS ASSISTANCE WILL ENABLE GREEK NAVY TO ACQUIRE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IT WANTS DESPITE LEGAL RESTRICTIONS PREVENTING USG FROM GUARANTEEING THEIR COST. CHRYSOPATHIS REPLIED THAT THE GUARANTEE WAS NO LONGER THE STICKING POINT. HIS MILITARY EXPERTS NOW WERE LOOKING CAREFULLY AT LIST OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT WE HAD OFFERED TO CLOSE NEA MAKRI/DCS ISSUE TO SEE WHETHER IT WOULD REALLY MEET GREEK NEEDS. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED WITH SOME HEAT THAT OUR OFFER OF THIS EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN ANOTHER EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE AND THAT WHETHER OR NOT THE EQUIPMENT WAS JUST WHAT THE GREEK NAVY DESIRED WAS INSUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION FOR DELAYING CONCLUSION OF THESE COMPLEX NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WAS SO MUCH IN BOTH COUNTRIES' INTEREST. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED THE  
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OPINION THAT CARAMANLIS WOULD EXPLODE IF HE KNEW THAT GREEK NAVY HAGGLING WAS DELAYING AN AGREEMENT WHICH HE WANTED COMPLETED RIGHT AWAY.

5. AT LUNCH WITH BITSIOS, AMBASSADOR TOOK HIM ASIDE AND RAISED THE SAME CONCERNS. FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED OVER CHRYSOPATHIS AND ASKED WHY NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT BE COMPLETED IMMEDIATELY SINCE AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD HIM ONLY ONE ISSUE REMAINED. BITSIOS SAID HE HAD DIRECTED WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN MACHERITSAS TO HAVE A FULL REPORT ON THE COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS ON HIS DESK EARLY MONDAY MORNING, JULY 18, SO HE COULD PRESENT IT TO A CABINET MEETING AT 11 O'CLOCK. IN RESPONSE TO BITSIOS' QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT AT THE EXPERT LEVEL BY SATURDAY AS AMBASSADOR HAD URGED, CHRYSOPATHIS SAID HIS WORKING GROUP WOULD HAVE A RESPONSE TO THE RECENT U.S. PROPOSAL BY THURSDAY NIGHT OR FRIDAY MORNING AT THE LATEST. THIS WOULD ENABLE THE TWO SIDES TO NEGOTIATE AND DRAFT TEXTS AT FRIDAY MEETING AND SUBMIT THEM TO WASHINGTON FOR APPROVAL, HOPEFULLY BY SATURDAY.

6. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR TOOK ALL OUT APPROACH WITH THESE GOG OFFICIALS AS PART OF OUR OVERALL EFFORT TO WRAP UP REMAINING ISSUES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCENARIO AND TIMETABLE OUTLINED IN REF B AND

APPROVED BY DEPT IN REF A. WE DO NOT EXCLUDE RESORTING TO ADDITIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO MOVE THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO A PROMPT CONCLUSION, BUT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT INADVISABLE AND UNTIMELY EVEN TO BROACH THIS POSSIBILITY WITH THE GOG UNTIL NECESSARY AND HOPE TO AVOID IT COMPLETELY. END COMMENT.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----051378 141337Z /41

O P 141105Z JUL 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1536  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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EXDIS

7. IN ADDITION TO PUSHING HARD ON THE QUESTION OF CONCLUDING THESE NEGOTIATIONS BY SATURDAY, AMBASSADOR ALSO TOOK UP WITH GOG OFFICIALS IN THESE MEETINGS MANY OF THE ADDITIONAL POINTS RAISED IN REF A. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION ABOUT HOW MUCH TIME THE GOG WOULD REQUIRE BETWEEN RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES AND THE OPENING OF THE FORMAL PUBLIC ROUND FOR INITIALING, CHRYSOPATHIS THOUGHT ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE DAYS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT AND THEREFORE THAT ROUND MIGHT BE HELD SOMEWHAT EARLIER THAN JULY 28 IF WE WISHED. ALTHOUGH THE GOG HAD NOT WORKED OUT THE DETAILS FOR THIS CONCLUDING ROUND, CHRYSOPATHIS ASSUMED ATHENS WOULD BE THE VENUE AND THAT HE AND MILLS (WHO WILL THEN BE CHARGE) WOULD INITIAL AS CHIEFS OF THEIR DELEGATIONS.

8. AS FOR THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WHICH GOG HAS PROMISED US, CHRYSOPATHIS SAID HE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING IT AND HAD SOME IDEAS IN MIND, BUT HAD NOT WORKED OUT THE TEXT PENDING RESOLUTION OF THE REMAINING ISSUES. HE INDICATED THAT A DRAFT WOULD BE READY IN A FEW DAYS.

9. AMBASSADOR ALSO MENTIONED NEED OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT, OR AT LEAST CLEAR GUIDANCE FOR USE IN CASE OF INQUIRY, SAYING THAT THE NEGOTIA-

TIONS WERE ABOUT TO RESUME AND THAT U.S. NEGOTIATORS WOULD BE IN  
ATHENS TO TAKE PART. THIS WOULD MAKE IT LESS LIKELY THAT OUR PRESS  
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AND SECTIONS OF OUR PUBLIC MIGHT THINK WE WERE TRYING TO SNEAK  
SOMETHING OVER ON THEM. CHRYSOPATHIS AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE  
POSSIBILITY AND LET US KNOW.

10. IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS, AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER ANY  
THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HOW SOON A FULL-POWERS SIGNING OF THE  
AGREEMENTS MIGHT TAKE PLACE AFTER INITIALING. BITSIOS REPLIED THAT  
GOG HAD NOT YET DECIDED THAT QUESTION BUT WOULD LOOK INTO IT AND  
LET US KNOW DURING THE FINAL ROUND. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT IF  
GOG HAD IN MIND A FULL-POWERS SIGNING IN AUGUST OR PERHAPS A  
LITTLE LATER IT MIGHT BE COMBINED INTO A SINGLE ROUND WITH THE  
INITIALING. BITSIOS RESPONDED "NO, NO, NO", AND INSISTED THERE  
SHOULD BE AN INITIALING IN LATE JULY AS AGREED, WITH THE SIGNING  
TO TAKE PLACE LATER. COMMENT: BECAUSE OF BITSIOS' REACTION TO THIS  
SUGGESTION, AND BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT IS SOUND STRATEGY TO NAIL  
DOWN ONE THING AT A TIME IN THESE SLIPPERY NEGOTIATIONS, WE RE-  
COMMEND THAT THE IDEA OF COMBINING THE INITIALING AND SIGNING INTO  
ONE SESSION BE DROPPED. END COMMENT

11. AT DINNER HOSTED BY DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF JULY 13, DCM MADE  
SIMILAR PITCH TO AVEROFF, POINTING OUT THAT ONLY REMAINING OBSTACLE  
TO AGREEMENT WAS GREEK NAVY HAGGLING OVER NEA MAKRI/DCS. AVEROFF  
CALLED OVER CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS KONOFAOS, ASKED IF HE WERE  
FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS OF ISSUE, AND WHEN HE FOUND KONOFAOS WAS NOT  
ASKED DCM TO OUTLINE THE PROBLEM. AVEROFF THEN TOLD KONOFAOS THAT  
GOG COULD NOT LET A FEW MILLION DOLLARS STAND IN THE WAY OF  
AGREEMENT AND DIRECTED HIM TO TELL THE NAVY TO SETTLE THE ISSUE  
BY JULY 15. KONOFAOS AGREED TO DO SO. (COMMENT: WE SHALL SEE.)  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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